

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Baker on December 4th, 2009. An Interview Summary has been attached to this communication regarding the claim limitations discussed during the interview.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: A composite gel comprising:

a) a dispersed phase comprising lipid droplets or particles comprising 20% or less of free fatty acids;

b) a continuous phase aqueous matrix comprising a pH ranging from about pH 4 to pH 9, and one or more cross-linked proteins not cross-linked with a divalent linker, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, or other aldehydes; and,

c) supplemental constituents;

wherein the dispersed phase droplets or particles are dispersed and embedded within the continuous phase matrix; and whereby supplemental constituents or lipid droplets, suitable for ruminant ingestion, are protected against degradation, modification, or removal from the gel during passage through the rumen; and,

wherein the cross-linking is heat cross-linking at a temperature of 80°C to 125°C.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA S. MERCIER whose telephone number is (571)272-9039. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm Mon through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert A. Wax can be reached on (571) 272-0623. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melissa S Mercier/
Examiner, Art Unit 1615

/Robert A. Wax/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1615